

PAPER SEPARATION MECHANISM AND PAPER FEED  
APPARATUS WITH THE PAPER SEPARATION MECHANISM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A paper separation mechanism that requires no complicated design or manufacturing and prevents feeding of a plurality of sheets of paper simultaneously to assure sheet-by-sheet feeding of paper, and a paper feed apparatus using such a paper separation mechanism. In the paper feed apparatus, paper is fed sheet by sheet by cooperation of a paper feed roller and the paper separation mechanism which is abutted by the lower end of the paper stacked in an inclined state. The paper separation mechanism is provided with a plurality of projections which are abutted by the lower end of the paper and a plurality of arm portions holding the projections, respectively. Since each projection is not affected by the neighboring projection, load imposed by the paper on the each projection can be controlled independently by the corresponding arm portion.